



Volume 1

Winter 2011

# SERV Study Newsletter



Department of Veterans Affairs



## SERV Study launched!

- New research project to survey Veterans that have just recently left Armed Services in Iraq and Afghanistan
- A collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Yale University
- We will be talking to Veterans from across the country
- Your comments welcome!

We are happy to announce that the SERV Study—Survey of Experiences of Returning Veterans— has begun!

This is a research project designed to look at the differences in how male and female Veterans readjust to civilian life.

The study involves telephone interviews with 1200 Veterans from all 50 states, and is a collaboration between the US Department of Veterans Affairs and Yale University.

We are grateful for the participation of all our Veterans. This project will help us to look at the different kinds of trauma that men and women experience before, during, and after deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. More women than ever are being exposed to combat, and this poses new challenges to the VA healthcare system.

We are hoping that this project will help in the design of appropriate health services to all our Veterans across the country.

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## Keeping our study participants informed

Several times each year we will be mailing you this newsletter with information on study progress. We expect to have much more news for you as the project gets underway. We value the participation of our study participants, and we encourage any comments/questions (*please see back page for ways to contact us.*)

We will also be gathering useful health information so that you may take advantage of services that are offered in your location.



**Dr. Rani Desai, PhD**



**Meet the investigators:**

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**Survey of  
Experiences of  
Returning Veterans**

**Dr. Rani Desai, PhD, MPH** is an experienced researcher at VA Connecticut Healthcare System in West Haven, Connecticut and is the lead on the study. She is also an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine and Director of the Women and Trauma Research Core of Women's Health Research at Yale.

**Dr. Carolyn Mazure, PhD** is the director of Women's Health Research at Yale, Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology, and Associate Director for Faculty Affairs at Yale University.

**Dr. Sherry McKee, PhD** is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University.

**Dr. Crystal Park, PhD** is an Associate Professor of Psychology at University of Connecticut and has a special interest in coping strategies after stressful life experiences.

**How it works:**

After you have signed the consent form to participate in the study (very important!) and have mailed it back, you will be getting a telephone call from one of our highly experienced telephone interviewers.

We are presently conducting a pilot study which consists of an open-ended interview which takes about 30 minutes. This pilot study will assist us in the planning of the larger study which will be launched soon.

We expect about 60 Veterans to participate in the pilot phase of the project. Thanks to all those who have already consented to interviews– your help is appreciated!

**Useful links:**

National PTSD website:

<http://www.ptsd.va.gov/>

PTSD Program Locator:

[http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD\\_flash.asp?isFlash=1](http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/PTSD_flash.asp?isFlash=1)

For a VA facility near you:

<http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash=1>

**We're on the web!**

<http://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn1/serv/>